

PROCEEDINGS
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THE NOMENCLATURE OF
SOUTH AMERICAN PECCARIES

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According to Cabrera (1961: 316), the name for the white-lipped peccary, *Tayassu pecari* G. Fischer, 1814, is a junior homonym of *Sus pecari* Link, 1795. The latter, in the opinion of the same authority, is based on a collared peccary described by Buffon in volume 10 of the *Histoire Naturelle* . . . (1763: 21, pls. 3, 4, 13). Consequently, Cabrera replaced *Tayassu pecari* G. Fischer with *Tayassu albirostris* Illiger, 1815. Although Cabrera's judgments in nomenclatorial matters are rarely questioned, his present conclusions appear to be without foundation. First, *Tayassu pecari* G. Fischer is obviously no homonym of *Sus pecari* Link. Second, *T. pecari* G. Fischer and *S. pecari* Link are actually objective synonyms, both being based on the same white-lipped peccary originally described by Buffon in supplementary volume 3 of the *Histoire Naturelle* . . . (1776: 92-94), as shown below.

Fischer (1814: 284-287) erected the genus *Tayassu* for the two living American species of peccaries, as follows:

[p. 284] "68. TAYASSU. [description follows]

[p. 285] "*Pecari*. 1. *T[ayassu]* corpore nigro, maxillâ inferior albâ. [synonymy follows]

[p. 287] "*patira*. 2. *T[ayassu]* corpore nigro, fasciâ humerali albâ. [synonymy follows]."

The full synonymy of *Tayassu pecari* given by Fischer is a composite of white-lipped and collared peccaries. The diagnosis, however, refers specifically to the white-lipped form described in the Sonnini edition of Buffon (1800, 27: 93 [but see p. 101]) as well as the white-lipped peccary, or *tagnicati*, of Azara (1801: 25). *T. patira*, also based on the Sonnini edition of Buffon (loc. cit.), is clearly the collared peccary.

In his classification of mammals, Link (1795: 104) employed the then current generic name *Sus* for the known species of suiforms, as follows:

[p. 104] "Gen. 9 *Sus*. Schwein [description follows]

"S[us] Scrofa, Porcus

"*S. Pecari*, niger, dorso cystifero, cauda nulla. Ist grosser als die folgende Art.

[p. 105] "T [= lapsus for SP] *Tajassu*, fuscus, dorso cystifero, cauda nulla.

"*S. Patira*, fuscus, litura dorsi alba, dorso cystifero, cauda nulla.

"*S. africanus* . . .

"*S. aethiopicus* . . .

"*S. Byrussa* . . ."

The preceding diagnoses of *pecari*, *tajassu*, and *patira* are quoted in full. No types or bibliographic references are cited by Link but it is implicit from the text that all three names are based on Buffon (1776: 92-94), who describes them as follows (translated from the original French): "M. de La Borde remarks that there are two species of *pecari* in Cayenne which are quite distinct and which never intermix. The larger has white hair on its chops and a round white spot the size of a crown piece on each side of the jaw. The rest of the body is black and the animal weighs about 100 pounds. The smaller species [i.e., *tajassu*] has reddish hair and as a rule does not weigh more than 60 pounds. . . . M. de La Borde mentions [p. 94] another species called *patira* also found in the Guianas. . . . It is the size of the smaller one but differs from it only by having a white line along the spine from neck to tail."

Sus tajassu Link is a variant spelling of *S. tajacu* Linnaeus, the first name for the collared peccary. *S. patira* Link applies to the Guianan form of the same species but is preoccupied by *Sus patira* Kerr (1792: 353) with identical type. As for *pecari* Link, it is impossible to escape the conclusion that it is the first valid name proposed for the *grosser*, or white-lipped, peccary. The priority of *pecari* Link had already been pointed out by first reviser Osgood (1921: 39).

The names for South American peccaries recognized by Cabrera (1961: 315) may be summarized as follows:

Tayassu G. Fischer; type *Tayassu pecari* Fischer (= *Sus pecari* Link), designated by Miller and Rehn (1901, Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., 30: 12).

Tayassu pecari Link, 1795 (white-lipped peccary)

Synonyms: *pecari* Fischer, 1814, *albirostris* Illiger, 1815, *labiatus* Cuvier, 1817, *spiradens* Goldman, 1912, *aequatoris* Lönnberg, 1921, *beebei* Anthony, 1921. Type locality: Cayenne, French Guiana.

Tayassu tajacu tajacu Linnaeus, 1758 (Brazilian collared peccary)

Synonyms: *tajassu* Erxleben, 1777 and *tajassu* Link, 1795, *minor* Schinz (not Kerr), 1825, *cattetu* Liais, 1872, *torquatus* of authors, not Cuvier. Type locality: Pernambuco, Brazil.

Tayassu tajacu patira Kerr, 1792 (Guianan collared peccary)

Synonyms: *minor* Kerr, 1792, *patira* Link, 1795, *torquatus* Cuvier,

1817 (based on the *patira* of Buffon), *macrocephalus* Anthony, 1921.
Type locality: Cayenne, French Guiana.

Cabrera also recognized *T. t. bangsi* Goldman, 1917 [= *modestus* Cabrera, 1917], *niger* J. A. Allen, 1913, and *torvus* Bangs, 1898. Subspecific distinction of these from each other and from *patira* Kerr is doubtful.

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